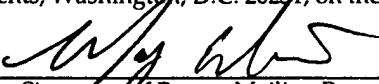


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5/15/02

Date of Signature

COPY OF PAPERS
ORIGINALLY FILED

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of)
MARTIN THINNES) Examiner: Not Assigned
on: SENSOR DEVICE AND METHOD FOR) Group Art Unit: Unknown
INTERROGATING A SENSOR DEVICE)
Serial No.: 10/070,695)
Filed on: 05 March 2002) (Our Docket No. 6147-03WOUS)

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
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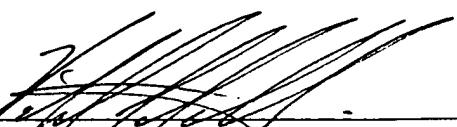
Technology Center 2600

Dear Sirs:

Enclosed for filing in the above-referenced case is a copy of the English translation of the Preliminary Examination Report, which is needed to complete the filing requirements of the above-identified new U.S. patent application.

No fees are considered to be due; however, if it is determined that payment of a fee is required, please charge our deposit account No. 13-0235.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 44,322

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Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

5

Applicant's or agent's file reference P-IEE-46/WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/EP00/08756	International filing date (day/month/year) 07 September 2000 (07.09.00)	Priority date (day/month/year) 08 September 1999 (08.09.99)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G01L 1/20,		
Applicant I.E.E. INTERNATIONAL ELECTRONICS & ENGINEERING S.A.R.L.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of _____ sheets.

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3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the report
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 15 March 2001 (15.03.01)	Date of completion of this report 12 July 2001 (12.07.2001)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/EP00/08756

I. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments.*):

 the international application as originally filed. the description, pages 1-12, as originally filed,

pages _____, filed with the demand,

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____,

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

 the claims, Nos. 1-8, as originally filed,

Nos. _____, as amended under Article 19,

Nos. _____, filed with the demand,

Nos. _____, filed with the letter of _____,

Nos. _____, filed with the letter of _____

 the drawings, sheets/fig 1/3 - 3/3, as originally filed,

sheets/fig _____, filed with the demand,

sheets/fig _____, filed with the letter of _____,

sheets/fig _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

 the description, pages _____ the claims, Nos. _____ the drawings, sheets/fig _____

3. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

4. Additional observations, if necessary:

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/EP 00/08756

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims	1 - 8	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1 - 8	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1 - 8	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations**1. Claims 1 and 2**

1.1 The application concerns a sensor assembly having a plurality of variable resistance sensors wired in a matrix. The devices according to independent Claims 1 and 2 are characterised in that sensor elements are also wired between the row conductors (Claim 1) or the column conductors (Claim 2), in addition to the sensor elements wired between the row and column conductors.

1.2 In relation to the closest prior art (DE-A-196 25 730 (D1)), which discloses a contact sensor matrix used as a sensor in motor vehicles, the present application solves the problem which consists in increasing the number of sensors without increasing the number of connection lines.

1.3 None of the search report citations shows or suggests a sensor matrix having a number of sensors increased in this way. In particular, the number of sensors can be increased in US-A-4 673 933 (D2) by wiring additional sensors between row and column conductors. This does not suggest to a person

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/EP 00/08756

skilled in the art to wire additional sensors only between row conductors or only between column conductors in D1.

The subject matter of independent Claims 1 and 2 therefore complies with the requirements for novelty and inventive step (PCT Article 33(2) and (3)).

3. Claims 3-8

Claims 3-8 are dependent on Claims 1 or 2 and therefore likewise meet the PCT requirements for novelty and inventive step.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/EP 00/08756

VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

Contrary to PCT Rule 5.1(a)(ii), the description does not cite documents D1 and D2 or indicate the relevant prior art disclosed therein.